

'The Mayor of Bay Farm'

By KEITH L. MARTIN

When he was 14, Ted Lougee made two very important decisions in his young life: that he would live in Duxbury when he grew up and had a family and that the town would be the location of his own business.

The ambitious teen from Connecticut made both a reality and has shared his love of the town with countless others during the nearly 50 years he has called Duxbury home. Included among the many who've been recipients of his hometown goodwill are several residents of the Bay Farm area of town.

After nearly six years, Lougee recently stepped down as chairman of the Bay Farm Association Trust, the board that oversees rules and regulations for the 165 units in the condominium complex, but his impact on many who live there will last for years to come.

"I admire his untiring dedication to the area," said Jack Madden, Lougee's successor as chairman, who refers to his friend as the "mayor" of Bay Farm. "He makes sure he has time for anyone who lives here and to be a sounding board for everyone. The spirit of his 'second job' made this community a special one to live in. He dove into here and put all his time and effort into it."

His love of the Bay Farm area dates back to the 1960s, long before the first condominium unit was erected. Having moved to Duxbury in 1954 with his new bride, Joan, Lougee lived on Landing Road and Woodridge Road until 1962, when a widow put up for sale the 39 acres of Bay Farm land in Kingston and Duxbury.

Lougee lost the negotiations for the land to the Society of the Divine Word, overseers of the Miramar Retreat Center, who used the property to build a large seminary and run a boys' summer camp.

Having missed out on buying the property, Lougee still had fulfilled his dream of living in town and then moved to Driftwood Drive for the next 28 years, raising his family of three girls and one boy.

"I just loved this town," said Lougee, who'll turn 77. "When Joan and I moved here after we were married, it was a small town with wonderful people and this is just where I decided I wanted to live."

His dream of owning his own Duxbury-based business came true in 1967 with the



Coming up on their 50th wedding anniversary, Ted and Joan Lougee have opened up their home on Bay Farm Road to many potential neighbors to welcome them to Duxbury.

establishment of Lougee Insurance Agency, which originally operated out of a room in his home, then an office in Snug Harbor and eventually, in 1980, its current home on

Bay Road. In 1994, Lougee retired from the business, turning it over to his son, Skip.

Lougee also became very involved in Duxbury's town business, handling the town's insurance for years and constantly on the scene of fires and other incidents that required his attention. In the early 1970s, he chaired the town's Recreation Facilities Study Committee, the group largely responsible for the creation of the Percy Walker Pool.

By 1991, the Lougee's children had grown and moved out of the family home on Driftwood Drive and that's about the time that Joan convinced Ted that perhaps a smaller dwelling would suit them better.

"She wanted a condo before I did," he said. "I remember, though, on one Saturday, I was working around the house and it needed all this work and I thought 'OK, it's time to talk about a condo.'"

When looking for a new place to live, the Lougees were drawn back to the place they almost owned nearly 30 years earlier: Bay Farm.

Leading the Way

The Bay Farm area had been bought from the priests at Miramar years earlier and developed as the mere beginnings of the current condominium units off Bay Farm Road. After looking at one of the units, the Lougees knew that this area is where they wanted to live.

"There were other condos in town, but this won out in our hearts," said Mr. Lougee.

Having been one of the first families to move into the



From local businessman to a driving force behind the Bay Farm condominiums, Ted Lougee has made his mark in Duxbury during his nearly 50 years in town.

relatively new development, the Lougees watched other units sprout up around them and other potential buyers visit and eventually settle in the area.

Having experience with condominium associations from his experience in insurance, Lougee quickly became active with the Bay Farm Association Trust. When the chairman became sick in 1999, Lougee took over and worked with the presidents of local townhouse associations to make the living experience an enjoyable one for all his neighbors and even authored a book for residents on the rules and regulations of the development as well as a financial plan through 2020.

"Not everyone reads their condo documents, so it's important for them to read this," he said. "I gave my time because I just felt responsibility to take part in the overall management."

"He has always had an affinity for this area," said Joan, his wife of 50 years

come August. "He thought this was a beautiful spot and took pride in it and wanted it to be just like when we were first married."

As dedicated as he was to aiding those who lived in the development, the Lougees also welcomed those new to the area and thinking about making Bay Farm their home. Over the years they've opened up their home to potential buyers, letting them see the unit and talking to them about life in Bay Farm and in Duxbury.

"Joan and Ted did that for us and were so gracious," said Maureen Madden, who lives on Tussock Brook Road with husband Jack. "A lot of these units probably sold because of that."

With his pending retirement due in part to health issues, members of the BFAT board know that while Lougee is stepping down, he will not stop caring about neighbors and helping improve the neighborhood.

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"Ted's not about to sit on the porch or a rocking chair," said board member Barry Goughan. "He'll be active because he believes he can

bring benefit to many people with his involvement. He believes deep down that everyone should play an active role."

Goughan said that many who live in Bay Farm know and, more importantly, respect Lougee for all he has done for them.

"I think it is because they know he is always there and know he'll always be involved for them," he said. "If you call him or encounter him on the street and bring up a concern, he won't give you lip service. He'll do his best to assist them or assist in rectifying the situation, give advice or whatever else he can do."

Lougee's dedication will soon be marked by a tree being planted in his honor

near the ponds at Bay Farm on behalf of the association and residents.

While Lougee appreciates the honor, he is just glad to see the association flourish as it has and see happy neighbors surrounding him.

"You do a job and you don't expect [to be recognized]," he said. "I just want to ride off into the sunset and that's just what I plan to do. I'll help whenever asked to, but I think it is healthy to have a change and see some new blood run the Association."

In the meantime, Lougee said he will spend more time with family and his grandchildren, who may be dreaming of their own time in Duxbury and the legacy they will create when they are older.